

WESSEX NEWS

VOL. 1 No. 3

MARCH 10TH, 1936

PRICE TWO PENCE

VOX.

De Profundus Ad Alta.

When, in an endeavour to increase accommodation in the physical laboratory, the cellars were cleaned out and put into commission, the opening was celebrated by the ceremonial unveiling, by a recently departed research student, of a coat of arms bearing the motto which forms the title above. Though the joke was appropriate to the cellars little did he know at that date—it was just about two years ago—that his words were to be prophetic.

Thanks to the great generosity of Miss Mary and Miss Charlotte Chamberlain (who initiated the fund and who now have completed it) and of two other very good friends of the College, the Vice-President and the Chairman of Council, the sum required for the building of the physical laboratory is now assured.

The plans have been maturing for over a year and are rapidly approaching the concluding stages. Together with Colonel Gutteridge, who has drawn up the plans, visits were paid to a number of university physical laboratories and to one palais de physique, numerous sketches were drawn, discussed and rejected, and one plan was followed up to a very advanced stage, only to find to our chagrin that it was going to be too ambitious for our pocket.

The final plan has got sufficiently far for an outline of its main features to be given. The laboratory will be built in the quarry in the south-west corner of the grounds, facing north, so that from the front windows one will look out on to the Assembly Hall. The actual front will come near to the edge of the old tennis courts and the building will be about one hundred feet square, with a rectangular courtyard in the middle, open to the sky, to provide light and ventilation to the middle of the building. It is to be a two storey building in the main, with a flat roof so that a third storey may be added when expansion is necessary; there will be three storeys at the front. The ground floor at the front will be protected by the bank of earth, thus giving the thermal stability of a cellar, but without the drainage difficulty associated with cellars, since the ground-floor rooms at the back are at the ground level.

The main entrances will be

straight into the middle floor which is at the "college" ground level. This floor has the main laboratories, library, staff-rooms and (down a few steps) the back entrances to the tiered lecture rooms. Thus the main body of students will have no necessity to go up or down to other floors but will find all they want on this middle floor. Stairs are provided at each side of the front of the building and heavy apparatus can be moved in a lift at the back. The bottom storey is to house research rooms, workshop, power and battery rooms, most of which require the mechanical stability the ground-floor affords. The top storey will have a few miscellaneous rooms, among which are a small discussion room which can be used for very small classes, and a small laboratory for special students in their final year.

The larger of the two lecture rooms is designed to seat one hundred, writing comfortably, which means that about one hundred and fifty (depending upon the compressibility) can attend a meeting. An inexpensive scheme has been devised for darkening the windows, electrically operated from the lecturer's bench, so that it may be possible to work in lectures under good lighting conditions all the time.

There will be three laboratories: one in the front for Intermediate student and two on the east side for General and Special students, one being electrical and the other designed for experiments in the remainder of physics. In both this latter laboratory and in the Intermediate one, optical experiments requiring darkness will be performed behind specially ventilated-partitions, having a light-trapped air-vent running all along the top, and a similarly arranged entrance of overlapping screens.

It is hoped that we shall be able to move in during the long vacation of 1937. Till then let all of us students of physics contrive to show to the luckier successors of some of us that we could do things, in spite of the handicaps.

A. C. Menzies.

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WESSEX NEWS

Tuesday, March 10th, 1936.

Offices:

STUDENTS' UNION, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Editor: Alastair Geddes.

Sports Editor: D. Tyerman, Esq.

Business Manager:

N. W. Hodgkinson.

EDITORIAL.

At the last meeting of the Students' Council it was decided to raise the price of this paper to twopenny. It is a serious step, and one which we ourselves heartily regret, but it was inevitable for the following reasons. The 'News' was costing weekly far more than the S.C. could afford, only some half the required sum being met by sales and advertisements. Therefore either the price had to be raised, the matter greatly curtailed, or the whole paper abandoned. This last we are determined shall not happen, while to limit the space for news would defeat the very object of the paper's existence. There is one other alternative, to rely on the hopes of other people's generosity. We have two possible sources, the staff and the Council. The staff we should not expect to tap in this way; the Council, though we should greatly appreciate any such generous action on their part, cannot be expected to act as sole subsidisers, and even were such support envisaged we would rather see the enterprise supported mainly by our own efforts for the sake of our pride and because 'he who plays the pipe calls the tune'. The whole question will probably be reconsidered at the end of the session.

We should like here to draw attention to Mr. Moir's letter. As regards this paper we agree with him in a qualified way. It must be remembered that news always comes first; secondly, humour is a great and noble thing and is not to be found growing on gooseberry bushes; the article he refers to in last week's 'News' has set a standard which we are unwilling to relinquish. Moreover, humour is a thing most arguable; we have our own opinion and mean to stick to it. Gossip, which is but one step removed from backbiting, may be funny in the opinion of the author and to none else. A paper must sell, and that will not depend entirely on its most serious article, but we have more trust in men than to believe that nothing but rubbish is saleable.

1. The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed in signed articles.

2. Correspondents are asked to make their letters as brief and to the point as possible.

3. The Editor regrets that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to print Society reports unless they have genuine news value.

Academic Freedom

The Heidelberg Celebrations.

Following criticisms in the 'Times' of The Bishop of Durham's letter supporting Oxford University's decision not to send a delegation to the Heidelberg Celebrations, a letter, signed by 17 members of the College Staff (including 9 members of Senate) was sent in support of Oxford's action. In the letter it was pointed out that no University could mistake the motive of this action. In Germany there was curtailment of academic freedom, persecution of those opposed to Nazi ideas, and savage treatment of non-Aryans, and that the German Universities were the most rabid partisans in this. The entrance of politics into University life was against all conceptions of what that life should be. It emphasised the fact that this refusal to co-operate in the Celebrations did not mean any severing of individual relations between members of the Staffs of the Universities of the two countries.

HERR KÖNTGES DEFENCE.

On Saturday at a meeting of the Political Club, Herr Köntges gave a very clear defence of the German position. He said they had a right to regulate their own internal affairs. The German Universities had gained from the Revolution, before which they had been narrow, academic and intellectual training grounds. Now they were organised on lines which had considerably more relation to the life of the country. He felt that support from the British Universities would be a great aid to friendly understanding.

From the House speakers expressed largely the point of view of the letter to the 'Times', emphasising the fact that, although Universities should never lose their essentially national and traditional characteristics, culture should know no frontiers, either national, moral, intellectual or cultural.

WESSECTIONS.

Miss M. Scott was elected vice-president of the Union on Friday by a large majority. 211 votes were polled, again not a satisfactory percentage of over four hundred students now at College, though considerably higher than in previous years.

The Warden of S.S.H. gave a successful dinner party at the Dolphin Hotel on Friday evening.

Miss Evans is leaving at the end of this term to become assistant librarian at Birkbeck College, London.

'The Higher Utility' is the name given to a new article of decoration in Connaught's dining hall.

Stoneham have acquired a new radio-gram.

The Boxing Club, still without a proper ring, show the keenness of a few members by practising during dinner hour in the rifle hut.

We regret the wrong information supplied to us by the S.C.M. that the Head of Winchester was giving a talk.

A petition is being circulated against exams.

Miss M. Gardner has been elected chairman of Highfield for next year.

Since last week the Boat House has been roofed, and tiling in a pleasingly varied red is almost complete. Shrubs have been set by the short drive and the roller type doors are ready to be fitted, whilst the terraced slope to the river is being consolidated.

On Monday Vos's knife snipped while cutting Rectory cheese.

In town, during two weeks from March 16th, Phyllis Neilson Terry will be playing for the Repertory Company without fee.

A system of detonators was being tried last week, apparently as an alternative to unsatisfactory bells.

Rice has been put back on Rectory menus for men at general request.

S.C. have had to pay eleven shillings for damage done in cloak rooms.

The 'Daily Worker' now taken by Connaught Hall, has twice suffered ordeal by fire, but this incendiarism has been officially reprimanded.

An up-to-date News Theatre is shortly to be opened in the town.

PIRATES.

Though not the most finished performance given by the College Choral and Orchestral Society, this was certainly one of the most enjoyable. In spite of a little natural nervousness, everyone taking part looked as if it were an immense joke. Scenery, dresses, and make-up were very attractive, and the indignation of the Major General's daughters at the suggestion that even one of them had a homely face was amply justified. The whole chorus work did its usual credit to Mr. William's training. In particular 'With cat-like tread' went with a delightful vigour and sinister suggestion.

Of the principals, the Major General (G. A. Mackenzie) was outstandingly good—a fine comic. Mabel (Miss M. Richardson), whose first performance this is at College, made a very promising beginning with a difficult and unsympathetic part. Mabel is usually treated as a skit on the grand opera soprano of the mid-Victorian period, but Miss Richardson's rendering made it an amusing reminiscence of the Doll Sweeney in 'Tales of Hoffman' and of the late 'La Poupée'. Frederic (K. J. Newman) has a very pleasant voice, and kept his rather tiresome part in its right relation to the rest of the performance. The Sergeant of Police (R. D. G. Kite) pleased the audience greatly, but tended to overact in contrast to Mabel. Ruth (Miss M. E. Bray) also made a very promising start. She has a sense of comedy and a very useful command of facial expression. Her shortness of stature combined with it to make her very intimidating in the Chapel scene. Her voice should develop into a useful contralto.

The rest of the principals made a sound contribution to the whole. The 'Paradox' trio (Frederic, Ruth and Pirate King) was a great success for all these.

It might be suggested that if the preparation for the opera were spread out more, instead of being so much concentrated in the Spring Term, the performance would be less of a strain and more finish could be obtained with less actual time.

A. M. T.

PERSONAL COLUMN.

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THIRTY MELODIOUS MINUTES WITH ARTHUR WILLIAMS ON THE
MAMMOTH COMPTON ORGAN

A Non-Socialist Speaks

ARMAMENTS AND WAR.

The number of times that I have heard the policy of Mr. Baldwin praised at College is so small as to be discounted. But the opinions expressed at last Thursday's meeting of the Socialist Society, when the Government's proposed expenditure on armaments was discussed, made the most scathing criticism that I have yet heard. This utter refusal to see anything of any use in the work of the National Government has been making me feel mentally sick.

A recent headline in the 'Daily Worker' sums up the feelings of too many of the students of this College. It ran, 'Baldwin's War Plan Disclosed'. Not even the most die-hard Tory would object to 'Armaments' being substituted for 'War', but the interpretation that has been placed on the Rearmament programme, by Communists and Socialists, is disgusting.

Anyone who believes that the present Government want war lacks all faith in his fellow beings; everybody hates war and feels that in a civilised world there is no justification for it. Nobody likes to see millions of pounds being used to manufacture machines to destroy human beings, to break down a civilisation that has taken centuries to build, but what is there that we can do?

The Socialists and Pacifists say that we must destroy our arms and martyr ourselves to the cause of the world; the Conservatives make a practical approach to modern problems, and, not having the fine ideals of a Socialist, he has no wish to become a martyr.

F. S. Eldridge.

We print the above article as an interesting contrast to the views expressed at the meeting referred to on the Government's rearmament proposals, by Dr. Quinn, Mr. Leishman and a number of other speakers.

SPORTS' STOP PRESS.

W.A.G.S. Sat., Lost 0-2.

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Bagwell Wins Road Race In Record Time.

Boat's Great Chance in Championship.
HOCKEY TEAM FAIL IN GRIM GAME.

Frank Appeal to Athletes!

THREE MILES ROAD RACE.

The result of the three miles road race held on Saturday, March 7th, was as follows:—

P. S. Bagwell (Econ.) 1., D. W. Irons (Sci.) 2., J. Newton-Smith (Eng.) 3., L. H. Moore (Arts) 4. Time: 17 mins. 38 secs. (a record, subject to confirmation).

Of eighteen entries, eleven turned out (probably another record), and Bagwell emerged an easy winner, having led throughout the race. A most satisfactory feature of the race was the excellent performance of Irons and Newton-Smith, both of whom are freshers.

It is worthy of note that the Vice-Warden of South Stoneham, Mr. Bishop, who is an old student of the College with a high reputation in athletics, returned to the College athletics by officiating as a judge in this event.

Bagwell's victory crowns a season of consistent and plucky running of great value to the College and a great tribute to himself.

U.A.U. ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP AT HENLEY (from our own correspondence).

This year for the first time the U.A.U. is staging a rowing Championship. The event will be rowed at Henley next Wednesday. As many of the northern Colleges row mainly in fours, the number of entrants will for the time being not be very large. The suggestion that was put forward by Reading that the Championship should take the place of their annual race with London University has been accepted by all concerned.

There are certain to be four entrants: Reading University, London University, Bristol University, and U.C.S.

Day is unable to get to Henley owing to exams and Köntges takes his place at two. Members of staff not being eligible Butten takes Mr. Ackroyd's place at seven and has already in the Bristol race of last week proved his adaptability and settled down quite well in spite of being overplaced.

The crew can go with the full knowledge that the result is still very open. Their only defeat this year is at the hands of Reading, who were beaten by the Bristol crew that our VIII trounced so soon as they found their form in the new boat. As London are unlikely to be better than the rest and Bristol are taking their own boat, there should be some very

good racing between four well matched crews, in which the exceptionally fast starts which our crew can do when they like may just turn the scale in our favour.

Crew: G. T. Grapes (bow), G. Kontges, H. Jagger, G. H. C. Campbell, L. F. Lamerton, F. Bartholomew, A. D. Button, A. G. Robertson (stroke), F. Wainwright (cox).

MEN'S HOCKEY.

Saturday's match at New Cross against Coldstream College, was played on a churned up sea of mud, and U.C.S. did not adapt themselves to these conditions so well as the home side. Settling down very quickly, Goldsmith's opened up the game with long passes, attacked continuously for 15 minutes and then scored. The College forwards kept the ball too close, their dribbling and short passes being ineffective. Goldsmith's scored again in the first half after a defensive error, the ball having stuck in the mud.

A very good goal by the centre-forward put Goldsmith's three up immediately after the restart, and although Robinson took his first and only chance to reduce the lead in a spasmodic attack by the visitors, the rest of the play was mainly in the College half. Goldsmith's scored twice more, to make the final score 5-1 against U.C.S.

Poor umpiring, the state of the pitch, and the tactics of the home side, made this a somewhat unpleasant game. Goldsmith's were the better side, but they marred their play by nudging, turning and the use of feet, and the umpire was lax. College in turn were discouraged from any desire to confine themselves to the use of sticks. College defence played pluckily, Martin having little chance, but they were overmarked owing to the lifeless play of the attack, where Robinson was quite unsupported. There were several minor injuries.

RUGGER.

1st XV v Winchester T.C.

A disappointing game, which on the run of the play should have ended in a draw, resulted in a win for Winchester 13-5. On a sloping pitch Winchester started off downhill and did most of the attacking, though the College defence was fairly good and held them to three points. In a rather scrappy second half College led the attack, but were handicapped by Woolley damaging a knee:

Moir scored a try which was converted, but another 'cert' was missed owing to a dropped pass. About one minute from time Wife (A.) came very near the line but in the scrimmage that followed a Winchester man got the ball and made an excellent run to our line, no one being back to stop him.

ATHLETICS.

Barely three years have passed since the Athletic team of this College was unbeaten week after week in contests with the strongest Service and College sides. For several seasons the team was undefeated in local matches, and the brightest stars were prominent in the U.A.U. Championships. British Universities sides abroad included Southampton men.

The time has now come to ask—WHY NOT AGAIN? The root cause has been the departure of the great; it has rather been the sloth and lack of those who should have filled their shoes. Year after year, club officials try, and are always foiled by two things: men will not train during the Easter vacation, and men will not run in the heats before Sports Day if the ground is a little damp or the air temperature low. And those who do not compete in the Sports never have the guts to try again. A handful is left to carry on, the paucity of its numbers a disgrace to the College.

We want—TRAINING IN THE VAC.

—A FULL TURN-OUT IN THE SPORTS, HEATS AND FINALS. —SUFFICIENT ATHLETES TO MAN THREE TEAMS.

We have the MATERIAL. We want to see it IN ACTION.

SOCCEER.

An interesting game was played on Wednesday at Calshot against the R.A.F., who were so soundly beaten some weeks ago. A College side, without Bullock, Turnbull and Keleher, lost 0-3, but had a good balance of a very good game. The match showed what great promise there is for a successful team next season.

It is hoped that there will be a match on Wednesday, when Bullock may return, and make his last appearance for the College with Turnbull, Keleher and Blackett. The season will end with the Inter-Hall final on March 14th: NEW HALL (holders) v SOUTH STONEHAM HOUSE, which ought to be a thrilling encounter.

RESULTS.

Wednesday, March 4th.

Rugger v King Alfred's (a). Lost 5-13.

Soccer v R.A.F. Calshot (a). Lost 0-3.

Saturday, March 7th.

Hockey v GOLDSMITH'S (a). Lost 1-5.

Soccer: 2nd XI v Higher Education. Lost 2-4.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of Wessex News,
Dear Sir,

Recent correspondence in the 'Wessex News' and enquiries from individual students have indicated that there is a considerable body in this College which is prepared to take an interest in the S.C.M. if it were organised more efficiently; feeling this to be true, the present committee has resigned and a new start is to be made.

There is an important distinction between the fundamental of the S.C.M. and the activities of the local group. The aim is not primarily to get members, but to present the claims of Christianity and to show its relevance to the modern world. A local branch is free to choose its own methods of forwarding this aim. The condition of membership is 'the desire to understand the Christian faith and to live the Christian life.'

We believe that many who deplore the S.C.M. are in sympathy with this aim and condemn the local branch because it fails in its purpose; therefore a meeting is to be held to discuss the reorganisation of the S.C.M. and any business concerning it, at which we shall be glad of any suggestions, criticisms and ideas.

We, the undersigned members, resigned members, and critics of the S.C.M. believe that a job needs doing and that the S.C.M. effectively reorganised can do it. Confident that others share this view, we submit this letter.

Yours, etc.,

Marjorie Bray, Dorothy Dade,
P. C. Flower, L. H. Moore, J. A. Rowan, T. C. B. Wilkes.

To the Editor of Wessex News,
Dear Sir,

"Hearing a Gilbert & Sullivan opera is rather like turning the leaves of a 19th century volume of 'Punch': you must be in the mood to enjoy either experience."

This quotation from the 'Echo' review of 'The Pirates of Penzance' is strong criticism of a University Choral Society. For it implies the question of whether the major choral activity of a University ought to consist in preparing works whose music is of doubtful artistic value, whose words have an interest largely historical, and whose production is established by a tradition so

strong as to leave room for little that is creative. If it is to undertake any artistic effort at all, a University should have as its purpose the raising of the Arts above their present level, and if the works of Gilbert & Sullivan fail in this criterion, the Choral Society ought seriously to consider alternative lines of expression for its energies.

If grand opera is impossible, is the Choral Society necessarily forced back upon Gilbert & Sullivan?

The putting on of such modern light operas as 'Tantivy Towers' would be a welcome step out of the rut, and a successful production of a first-class revue (including, perhaps, some local material written by students themselves) would be an achievement of which the Society and the College might be justifiably proud.

Yours, etc.,

To the Editor of Wessex News,
Dear Sir,

This is a plea for a much neglected part of College life—humour. How can this be done? To me there seem to be two media—the spoken and the written word, represented by the Debating Society and the 'Wessex News' respectively.

The 'Wessex News' furnishes no reason for complaint yet. The 'Historical Researcher' even if rather scathing, was at least humorous, though again with underlying seriousness. I agree, Mr. Editor, that the paper should not in any way be regarded as a 'rag' or as an outlet for scandal, but I do suggest that you continue, as part of your policy, to print any attempts at well-meaning humour by your contributors. I hope they will be many.

Yours sincerely,

G. A. A. Moir.

THE FUT-PRES.

i.e. the President-elect of the Union.
(An exclusive interview.)

Of course, one has to approach cautiously one of those men who is shortly to become the swayer of so many of our petty destinies—one so unlike myself—who do all the work when nobody is looking. He has done all the Stage-work for the Choral and Stage Societies; run New Hall till you could positively see the oil on the cogs, as it were; obtained strange men to lecture on strange subjects for the Chemical Society. I knew he was a music enthusiast—and when I say music I mean music—and in general I felt he was much better than he looked—though that's not quite my meaning. He is obviously a man of great capabilities, albeit having a somewhat avuncular look—it is an avuncular relative whose views have weight and experience—though at the same time not without humorous bent.

Like our present leader he will make himself felt, for his views are decided and definite. Beyond this I know nothing, but I'd like to take a wager as to which of the two suffers fools most gladly.

FURTHER 'HISTORICAL' DISCOVERIES.

A recently discovered fragment of a letter, written by a chronicler living in the Land Between Ithen and Test, to his friend in another land.

... the inhabitants are for the most part poor in wit and frivolous. They are reputed to spend their lives in the pursuit of learning, but this is not so. However, it is unseemly that women should pursue learning or even feign to do so, as many do here.

Know further, O most learned and beloved friend, that this Land Between Ithen and Test takes its name from the two rivers that bound it, the one on the East, the other on the West. It is not a fair land, being strewn with a multitude of houses. It is ruled over by Prince the King, Giosaph Gallus the highpriest, and Char Lee the Executioner.

I will now speak of the rivers. Of Test I can say but little, save that it is a fair stream in its upper reaches and contains salmon in abundance. Of Ithen I know more for I have long dwelt by it. It is not a great river nor remarkable, save for the rites performed upon it. These rites are strange and barbarous: I know not their purpose, nor whence they came. Some say that they are done in worship of river-spirits, and others that they were devised as cruel punishment for evildoers in the old times. Twice in a week are these rites to be seen. Certain young men convey themselves in boats upon the river. These boats are long and narrow and of no use, for they are too frail to fight therein and too small for the transport of merchandise. Some contain twin, others four, and yet others eight. To row in these galleys is a toil hard and exacting, for at all times, in all weathers, yea, and even on holy days, must the witless wretches endure the lash of the elements. But, worse than all else, the service of the boats is slavish and self-like: for the rowers bow in unison to a certain small but active being of loud and ugly voice, who exhorts them with many oaths to convey him the faster.

Thus, O friend, you perceive that one so hapless as to be hired into this ceremony becomes a thrall. His mind is slave to his little, loud-mouthed taskmaster, his body to the toil of the oar. Yet, be it told, this ceremony receives many new devotees and they vie with each other in servility. Nay, more, they are now building a new temple for themselves wherein to place their boats, and where they will make merry on holy days. Truly this is not a good land; my soul trembles within me to think on it. Know also O great and dear scholar that . . .

(The rest of the MSS. is missing)

Calendar.

Tuesday, March 10th.

Soc. Soc.: Ralph Fox on 'Commons in Great Britain', at 1.30, in Room 5.
Athletic Union: Watson Bain, Esq., on 'Olympic Games', at 5.30, in the Botany Theatre (Lantern Lecture).

Wednesday, March 11th.

Chess Club: Robertson Cup Semi-final, 'A' team versus Southampton.

Thursday, March 12th.

S.C.M.: 'Reorganisation', at 1.15, in the Music St.
Classical Assoc.: Prof. V. de S. Pinto on 'English Translations of Homer', at 4.45, at the Atherley Schools.
Soc. Soc.: Einstein Film, 'General Line', at 8.30, in the Hall.

Friday, March 13th.

L.N.U.: Prof. R. Betts, on 'The League of Nations and National Sovereignty', at 1.20, in the Music St.
Biological Soc.: C. G. Johnson, Esq., B.Sc., on 'Bed-bugs: Sociological and Biological Problems', at 5.30.
English Assoc. and Madrigal Soc.: D. Cecil Williams, Esq., on 'Elizabethan Madrigals', at 8.0, at College.

Sunday, March 15th.

S. Mary's, S. Stoneham: Rev. G. E. Evans, Canon of Ely. Collection for the Southampton Hospital Sunday Fund.
Wessex Rhythmic Club: at 5.30, at the Cowherds' Tearooms.

Monday, March 16th.

Terminal Examinations: at 9.30 in the Hall.
Gramophone Club: Students' Orchestra, at 1.20, in the Music St.

Tuesday, March 17th.

Halls and Refectory Com: at 2.30.
Math. Assoc.: S. Weintraub, Esq., M.A., on 'Einstein and his Theory', at 5.45.

We should like to draw secretaries attention to the need for accuracy in the information handed in for the Calendar. Failure in this respect causes the pouring of unnecessary opprobrium on the heads of 'News' staff.

This SATURDAY

KASB DUNSTON

19/1

DANCE
KARNIVAL
KRAZY
ECONOMICS
FACTORY OF

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